THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) . (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The report states that after Independence it was estimated that there were nearly 150,000 devadasis in the country and that this figure keeps mounting

(c) The State Governments where such practices prevail have their own Acts to curb this evil such as Bombay Devdasi Prevention Act, 1934, Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947 etc. which prohibit devadasi system in those States. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have also introduced the Andhra Pradesh Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Bill 1987 in their Legislative Assembly.

Ban on manufacturing of Sura

1130 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to put a complete ban on the manufacture of Sura throughout the country through a [illegible] if so the details thereof; and

(b) if not, what are [illegible] is therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE [illegible] MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND [illegible] LY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Sura is a group of Ayurvedic medicine which is prepared by distillation method and consists alcohol. There is no proposal to ban the manufacture of this group of Ayurvedic medicine.

(b) These are well known Ayurvedic Drugs used in specific and serious conditions. Ayurvedic profession, in general, is not in favour of banning these drugs.

Cycle cum Scooter stand contracts for M/s. Railway Cycle Stand Karamchari Shram Samvida Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Allahabad

1131. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s Railway Cycle Karamchari Shram Samvida Sahkari Ltd, Allahabad, were allowed to operate the contract for Cycle cum Scooter Stand Contracts at Kanpur Central, Allahabad (Civil Lines side) and (City Side) despite the fact that they were not making payment of railway dues in time,

(b) whether instead of recommending blacklisting of the defaulter Society, Railway Board Vigilance Directorate held the then Senior Divisional Commercial Superintendent responsible for all lapses and chargesheeted him for a major penalty; and

(c) if no action is being taken against the Society, what are the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER [illegible] OF THE MINISTRY [illegible] VAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO [illegible]) : (a) No, Sir. The Cycle-cum-Scooter Stand contracts awarded to M/s. Railway Cycle Stand Karamchari Shram Samvida Sahkari Samiti Ltd, at Kanpur Central and Allahabad (Civil Lines side) were terminated prematurely as the contractor defaulted persistently in payment of railway dues However, the amounts of railway dues on account of these contracts were recovered in full out of payments due to this Society from the Railway against other contracts held by them

The Contract at Allahabad (City Side) was awarded only temporarily to this contractor.

(b) Railway have already taken action against the Society as mentioned at (a) above. The then Senior Divisional Commercial Superintendent, Allahabad is facing disciplinary proceedings on account of favours shown by him to some parties and other serious lapses & irregularities on his part. Action against him is being taken with the advice by the Central Vigilance Commission.

(c) Does not arise.